



Media Release



25th Infantry Division & U.S. Army, Hawaii *America's Pacific Division*

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Additional Schofield Brigades Get Orders for 2006 Deployment

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Two additional brigades from the 25th Infantry Division have been issued deployment orders to Iraq in 2006, according to Lt. Col. Walt Piatt, Operations Officer for the 25th Infantry Division.

Piatt announced the deployment of approximately 500 Soldiers from the 45th Sustainment Brigade and approximately 2,400 Soldiers from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. Both brigades will begin deploying this summer.

“With these deployments on the horizon, it is imperative that we focus our energy and efforts on Soldier and family readiness,” said Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general, 25th Infantry Division and U.S. Army, Hawaii. “We must ensure that each and every Soldier gets the tough, realistic training they need to ensure combat readiness and, most importantly, to save lives.”

Both brigades had deployed previously in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Soldiers from the Aviation Brigade deployed for a year to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2004, and Soldiers from the 45th Sustainment Brigade deployed for a year to Iraq and Afghanistan in 2004 as members of the 25th Infantry Division Support Command and the 45th Corps Support Group.

“The Combat Aviation Brigade will conduct Aviation Combat, Combat Support and Combat Service Support missions across the full spectrum of military operations,” said Col. Thomas Ball, commander, Combat Aviation Brigade. “The key to accomplishing our mission in country, taking care of our Soldiers, and bringing them home safely, is our unfettered access to quality local training areas here on Oahu and on the Big Island.”

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“As with our sister 25th ID Combat brigades, the Soldiers of the 45th Sustainment Brigade *Lightning Support* now have to focus on training and preparing to go to Iraq and support the units within our area of responsibility,” said Col. Michael McBride, commander, 45th Sustainment Brigade. “This includes training on convoy operations, and Makua Military Reservation is the best place on Oahu to train this requirement. Convoy operations are a large and dangerous piece of our daily duties, and convoy live fire training is critical to our preparedness.”

The 45th Sustainment Brigade and 25th CAB were reorganized in November as part of the Army's transformation to more brigade-size units. These units can be deployed rapidly and are better suited for joint operations with the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

This is the division's second major deployment announcement for 2006. In November 2005, the Department of Defense announced the Iraq deployment of the Division Headquarters and the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Overall, approximately 7,000 Soldiers will be deploying from Schofield Barracks.

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(MEDIA NOTE: For more information, contact Kendrick Washington or Stefanie Gardin at 808-655-4815/8729 or cell 808-497-7336.)